**Summary**

Chapters 7-13

Mortenson has no luck with progressing his ideas and dreams. He ends up in Pakistan with no plan and he has not contacted anyone in advance, as well he does not know the local customs. The only fortunate coincidence of meeting Abdul enables him to make any progress. Throughout chapter 7 it basically talks about how Mortenson must learn the customs of the people, so he doesn’t offend them or disrespect them in anyway. Respect plays a big part in the way of the lives of the Pakistani people. Throughout chapters 8-10 you see a change in Mortenson. He begins meeting with certain people in the village so he can prove himself worthy of these people. As his progression seems to be looking bright, there’s a roadblock. His good friend surprises Haji says they must build a bridge across Braid before they start constructing the school. To his dismay he returns back to San Francisco, only to come home to his girlfriend leaving him and him not being able to have the funds to build this bridge in order to start the school. As he feels defeated his friend Reichardt gives him information on a man, Hoerni, who can easily afford the fund of the bridge. He ends up back in Pakistan where he now has the funds to build the bridge and continue his work there. As the bridge is done being built, the thought of the promise he made to the people of Korphe, which he promised to build a school there as well. As his mind gets the best of him, he continues to push on and make something of himself.

**Reflection**

I feel as though Mortenson should have had a better thought out plan before he took on such a massive project. Sometimes life just throws you opportunities that you can’t give up, but you have to be smart about the decisions you make with your opportunities. As well I think that his willingness sometimes gets in the way. If you’re too willing, people are going to take advantage of you. He sets out to build these schools and gives everyone his word, but he sometimes sets his expectations so high that he might not reach them. With him in a whole different country, he has to have an understanding of their culture and values.

**Essential Question**

“What inherent human characteristics span time and culture?”

Throughout these chapters I think human characteristics that span time and culture are the failures of life. Through these chapters it seems that Mortenson has set his goals a little higher, and they are getting harder and harder to reach. He can’t afford things in order to progress; as well he loses his girlfriend and his job. All of these can be failures in anyone’s life, but as history has shown it seems that our failures make us stronger and keep us humane. Without our failures in life, we wouldn’t be able to learn and find ourselves in a good light.